Numb. 146

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

Permittes ipſis expendere Numinibus, quid
Conveniat nobis, rebuſq; ſit utile noſtris.
Nam pro Jucundis aptiſſima quæq; dabunt Dii.
Charior eſt illis homo, quam ſibi. Nos animorum
Impulſu & cæca magnaq; cupidine ducti
Conjugium petimus, partumq; Uxoris; at illis
Notum, qui pueri, qualiſq; futura ſit Uxor. Juv.

From *Tueſday March* 14. to *Thurſday March* 16. 1709.

From my own Apartment, March 15.

AMONG the various Sets of Correſpondents who apply to me for Advice, and ſend up their Caſes from all Parts of *Great Britain*, there are none who are more importunate with me, and whom I am more inclined to anſwer, than the *Complainers*. One of them dates his Letter to me from the Banks of a purling Stream, where he uſed to ruminate in Solitude upon the divine *Clariſſa*, and where he is now looking about for a convenient Leap, which he tells me he is reſolved to take, unleſs I ſupport him under the Loſs of that charming perjured Woman. Poor *Lavinia* preſſes as much for Conſolation on the other Side, and is reduced to ſuch an Extremity of Deſpair by the Inconſtancy of *Philander*, that ſhe tells me, ſhe writes her Letter with her Pen in one Hand, and her Garter in the other. A Gentleman of an ancient Family in *Norfolk*, is almoſt out of his Wits upon Account of a Greyhound, that, after having been his inſeparable Companion for Ten Years, is at laſt run mad. Another, who I believe is ſerious, complains to me, in a very moving Manner, of the Loſs of a Wife; and another in Terms ſtill more moving, of a Purſe of Money that was taken from him on *Bagſhot* Heath, and which he tells me, would not have troubled him if he had given it to the Poor. In ſhort, there is ſcarce a Calamity in human Life that has not produced me a Letter.

It is indeed wonderful to conſider, how Men are able to raiſe Affliction to themſelves out of every Thing. Lands and Houſes, Sheep and Oxen, can convey Happineſs and Miſery into the Hearts of reaſonable Creatures: Nay, I have known a Muff, a Scarf, or a Tippet, become a ſolid Bleſſing, or Misfortune. A Lap-dog has broke the Hearts of Thouſands. *Flavia*, who had buried Five Children, and Two Huſbands, was never able to get over the Loſs of her Parrot. How often has a divine Creature been thrown into a Fit by a Neglect at a Ball or an Aſſembly? *Mopſa* has kept her Chamber ever ſince the laſt Maſquerade, and is in greater Danger of her Life upon being left out of it, than *Clarinda* from the violent Cold which ſhe caught at it. Nor are theſe dear Creatures the only Sufferers by ſuch imaginary Calamities. Many an Author has been dejected at the Cenſure of one whom he ever looked upon as an Idiot; and many a Hero caſt into a Fit of Melancholy, becauſe the Rabble have not hooted at him as he paſſed through the Streets. *Theron* places all his Happineſs in a Running Horſe, *Suffenus* in a Gilded Chariot, *Fulvius* in a Blue String, and *Florio* in a Tulip Root. It would be endleſs to enumerate the many fantaſtical Afflictions that diſturb Mankind; but as a Miſery is not to be meaſured from the Nature of the Evil, but from the Temper of the Sufferer, I ſhall preſent my Readers, who are unhappy either in Reality or Imagination, with an Allegory for which I am indebted to the great Father and Prince of Poets.

As I was ſitting after Dinner in my Elbow-Chair, I took up *Homer*, and dipped into that famous Speech of *Achilles* to *Priam*, in which he tells him, that *Jupiter* has by him two great Veſſels, the one filled with Bleſſings, and the other with Misfortunes, out of which he mingles a Compoſition for every Man that comes into the World. This Paſſage ſo exceedingly pleaſed me, that as I fell inſenſibly into my Afternoon's Slumber, it wrought my Imagination into the following Dream.

When *Jupiter* took into his Hands the Government of the World, the ſeveral Parts of Nature, with their Preſiding Deities, did Homage to him. One preſented him with a Mountain of Winds, Another with a Magazine of Hail, and a Third with a Pile of Thunder-bolts. The Stars offered up their Influences: The Ocean gave in his Trident, the Earth her Fruits, and the Sun his Seaſons. Among the ſeveral Deities who came to make their Court on this Occaſion, the Deſtinies advanced with Two great Tuns carried before them; one of which they fixed at the Right Hand of *Jupiter* as he he ſat upon his Throne, and the other on his Left. The Firſt was filled with all the Bleſſings, and the other with all the Calamities, of human Life. *Jupiter*, in the Beginning of his Reign, finding the World much more innocent than it is in this Iron Age, poured very plentifully out of the Tun that ſtood at his Right Hand; but as Mankind degenerated, and became unworthy of his Bleſſings, he ſet a-broach the other Veſſel, that filled the World with Pain and Poverty, Battles and Diſtempers, Jealouſy and Falſhood, intoxicating Pleaſures, and untimely Deaths.

He was at length ſo very much incenſed at the great Depravation of human Nature, and the repeated Provocations which he received from all Parts of the Earth, that having reſolved to deſtroy the whole Species except *Deucalion* and *Pyrrha*, he commanded the Deſtinies to gather up the Bleſſings which he had thrown away upon the Sons of Men, and lay them up till the World ſhould be inhabi-

ted

ted by a more virtuous and deſerving Race of Mortals.

The Three Siſters immediately repaired to the Earth in Search of the ſeveral Bleſſings that had been ſcatter'd on it, but found the Task which was enjoined them, to be much more difficult than they had imagined. The firſt Places they reſorted to, as the moſt likely to ſucceed in, were Cities, Palaces, and Courts; but inſtead of meeting with what they looked for here, they found nothing but Envy, Repining, Uneaſineſs, and the like bitter Ingredients, of the Left Hand Veſſel: Whereas, to their great Surprize, they diſcovered Content, Chearfulneſs, Health, Innocence, and other the moſt ſubſtantial Bleſſings of Life, in Cottages, Shades, and Solitudes.

There was another Circumſtance no leſs unexpected than the former, and which gave them very great Perplexity in the Diſcharge of the Truſt which *Jupiter* had committed to them. They obſerved, that ſeveral Bleſſings had degenerated into Calamities, and that ſeveral Calamities had improved into Bleſſings, according as they fell into the Poſſeſſion of wiſe or fooliſh Men. They often found Power with ſo much Inſolence and Impatience cleaving to it, that it became a Misfortune to the Perſon on whom it was conferred. Youth had often Diſtempers growing about it, worſe than the Infirmities of Old Age. Wealth was often united to ſuch a ſordid Avarice, as made it the moſt uncomfortable and painful Kind of Poverty. On the contrary, they often found Pain made glorious by Fortitude, Poverty loſt in Content, Deformity beautify'd with Virtue. In a Word, the Bleſſings were often like good Fruits planted in a bad Soil, that by Degrees fall off from their natural Reliſh into Taſtes altogether inſipid or unwholeſome; and the Calamities, like harſh Fruits, cultivated in a good Soil, and enrich'd by proper Grafts and Inoculations, till they ſwell with generous, and delightful Juices.

There was ſtill a Third Circumſtance, that occaſioned as great a Surprize to the Three Siſters as either of the foregoing, when they diſcovered ſeveral Bleſſings and Calamities, which had never been in either of the Tuns that ſtood by the Throne of *Jupiter*, and were nevertheleſs as great Occaſions of Happineſs or Miſery as any there. Theſe were that ſpurious Crop of Bleſſings and Calamities which were never ſown by the Hand of the Deity, but grow of themſelves out of the Fancies and Diſpoſitions of human Creatures: Such are Dreſs, Titles, Place, Equipage, falſe Shame, and groundleſs Fear, with the like vain Imaginations that ſhoot up in trifling, weak, and irreſolute Minds.

The Deſtinies finding themſelves in ſo great a Perplexity, concluded, that it would be impoſſible for them to execute the Commands that had been given them according to their firſt Intention: For which Reaſon, they agreed to throw all the Bleſſings and Calamities together into one large Veſſel, and in that Manner offer them up at the Feet of *Jupiter*.

This was perform'd accordingly, the eldeſt Siſter preſenting her ſelf before the Veſſel, and introducing it with an Apology for what they had done.

'O *Jupiter!* (ſays ſhe) we have gathered together all the Good and Evil, the Comforts and Diſtreſſes of human Life, which we thus preſent before thee in one promiſcuous Heap. We beſeech thee, that thou thy ſelf wilt ſort them out for the future, as in thy Wiſdom thou ſhalt think fit. For we acknowledge, that there is none beſide thee that can judge what will occaſion Grief or Joy in the Heart of a human Creature, and what will prove a Bleſſing or a Calamity to the Perſon on whom it is beſtowed.

*** **PROPOSALS** for Printing the **LUCUBRATIONS** of Iſaac Bickerſtaff Eſq; by Subſcription, in Two Volumes in Octavo, on a Large Character, and Fine Royal Paper, are to be ſeen, and Subſcriptions taken, at Charles Lillie's, a Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford Buildings in the Strand, and John Morphew's near Stationers-Hall. All Perſons that deſign to ſubſcribe to this Work, are deſired to ſend their Subſcriptions with all Expedition, the Book being put to Preſs, in order to have it publiſhed before Eaſter.

TO Morrow, being the Seventeenth of this Inſtant, will be performed (in the great Room in York-Buildings) a Conſort of Muſick, both Vocal and Inſtrumental, by the beſt Performers, for the Benefit of Mrs. A. Bradſhaw. Tickets are to be had at Charles Lillie's, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, and at Tom's Coffee-houſe, Covent-Garden, at 5 s. per Ticket. N. B. It being Lent, there will be no Play that Night.

Men's Morning Gowns, of rich Silks, Stuffs, Calicoes, &c. (being the Goods of a Perſon that failed) to be diſpoſed of at very low Rates; may be ſeen at the Olive-Tree and Still within three Doors of Young Man's Coffee-houſe, againſt the Horſe at Charing-Croſs. The Prices being ſet on each Gown. Catalogues of the Particulars may be had at the Place of Sale.

NOtice is hereby given, That 216 Hogſheads of extraordinary good French Clarets will be put up to Sale, at 20 l. per Hogſhead, at Garraway's Coffee-Houſe in Exchange-Alley, on Wedneſday the 22d Inſtant, at 3 a Clock in the Afternoon, and to be taſted in Major Long's Vaults in Mark-Lane, from Monday next till the Time of Sale. Catalogues may be had at the Publick-Sale Warehouſes on the North Part of the Royal-Exchange, up the Stairs of Threadneedle-ſtreet Side, at the Place of Sale, and where the Wines are taſted.

THE Barton and Farm of Ballamarſh, and the Houſes and Lands thereunto belonging, in the Pariſh of Kingſteinton in the County of Devon, are to be ſold, together or in Parcels. Enquire of Mr. T. Templeman in Arundel-ſtreet in the Strand, or of Mr. T. Ridding at Ballamarſh in Kingſteinton in Devon.

*** There is now publiſhed, Aſtronomia Carolina; or, A new Theory of the Celeſtial Motions; compoſed according to the beſt Obſervations, and moſt rational Grounds of Art, yet far more eaſy, expedite, and perſpicuous, than any before extant; with exact and moſt eaſy Tables thereunto, and Precepts for the Calculation of Eclipſes, &c. By Mr. T. Streete. With his Memorial Verſes on the Eccleſiaſtical and Civil Calendar. The Second Edition, with Additions. The whole carefully corrected. To which is added, an Appendix, containing a Collection of Obſervations on the Moon and Planets, and a Propoſal how to find out the Longitude at Sea, by the Help of theſe Obſervations. Printed for R. Smith, and S. Briſcoe; and ſold by J. Woodward in St. Chriſtopher's Church-yard near the Royal-Exchange, and J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Pr. 8 s.

†† An Apologetical Vindication of the Church of England: In Anſwer to her Adverſaries who reproach her with the Engliſh Hereſies and Schiſms. With an Appendix of Papers relating to the Schiſms of the Church of Rome. By George Hicks, D. D. The Second Edition. Reviſed by the Author. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Price 1 s. 6 d. in Sheep rolled, and 2 s. in Calf.

THeſe are to acquaint the Lovers of Art, That there is an extraordinary Collection of Italian Drawings and Prints of the moſt eminent Painters and Gravers to be ſold by Hand, the loweſt Price being ſet on the Back-ſide of each; ſo that all Gentlemen will at Sight be informed of the Value. Note, that if any Perſon has either fine Drawings, Prints, Pictures, or other Rarities, they may be diſpoſed of in the ſame Manner, paying Poundage for ſuch as are ſold. There is conſtant Attendance from 10 of the Clock in the Morning to 5 in the Afternoon, at the Houſe on the Right Hand going up to the Houſe of Lords in the Old Palace-yard, Weſtminſter.

THE famous Chymical Quinteſſence of Bohee-Tea and Chocolate together, the firſt of that Kind ever made; in which are eſſentially inherent the true Virtues of both Tea and Nut, inſomuch that a few Drops of it gives more Nouriſhment than 20 Diſhes of either, and is therefore the higheſt Reſtorative in Decays of Nature, conſumptive Habits, inward Weakneſs, Waſtings and Coughs, Aſthma's, Poorneſs of Blood, &c. Invigorating and Strengthening Nature beyond all Food or Phyſick. Sold at 5 s. the Bottle at Mr. Lawrence's Toyſhop, at the Griffin, the Corner of Buckleſs bury, Poultry.

TO thoſe that are afflicted with the STONE and GRAVEL; Theſe are to certifie whom it may concern, That I Anthony Maring, (who keep the Blue Poſts Eating-houſe juſt without Temple-bar) having been for about two Years very much afflicted with the Stone and Gravel, was adviſed by a Neighbour of mine (from whom it had brought away Thirteen Stones) to try the Powder that is ſold by Mr. Rogers in Fleet-ſtreet, and Mr. Aylmer in Cornhil, Bookſellers, for that Diſtemper, which I did, and found ſuch Succeſs from the Uſe of it, that it brought away lately from me nine Stones, three of which were very large, which I have by me ready to ſhow to any one that deſires to ſee them; ſince which Time, I have continued very well. Witneſs my Hand this 21 Feb. 1709-10. *Anthony Maring.*